

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology  
2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:  
3                   displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having  
4   two connections to two other nodes in the network; and  
5                   displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two  
6   connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and  
7   second orthogonal segments and a curved segment joining the first and second segments in a  
8   continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of the second  
9   connection path.

1                   2.       The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first  
2   segment is a horizontal segment and wherein the second segment is a vertical segment.

1                   3.       The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the horizontal  
2   segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a horizontal segment of the  
3   second connection path.

1                   4.       The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the vertical  
2   segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a vertical segment of the  
3   second connection path.

1                   5.       The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first  
2   segment is connected to the displayed node, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a  
3   portion of a segment of the second connection path.

1                   6.       The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising  
2   displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the  
3   second segment is connected to the second displayed node.

1                   7.       The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the first  
2   connection path further includes a third segment orthogonal to the second segment, and a  
3   second curved segment joining the second segment to the third segment in a continuous  
4   manner.

1                   8.       The computer-implemented method of claim 7, further comprising  
2 displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the third  
3 segment is connected to the second displayed node.

1                   9.       The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first connection  
3 path.

1                   10.      The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of  
2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1                   11.      The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of  
2 highlighting includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1                   12.      The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user  
2 selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1                   13.      The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user  
2 selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first  
3 connection path from a list of network connections.

1                   14.      The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the displayed  
2 node represents one of a switch group and a host group.

1                   15.      The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising  
2 highlighting the connection paths for all connections to the displayed node in response to a  
3 user indication.

1                   16.      The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of  
2 highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1                   17.      The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of  
2 highlighting includes changing the colors of the highlighted connection paths.

1                   18.      The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user  
2 indication is input by the user using a computer mouse.

1           19.    The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user  
2   indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1           20.    The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the network is  
2   a storage area network (SAN).

1           21.    A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology  
2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:  
3           displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having  
4   two connections to two other nodes in the network;  
5           displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two  
6   connections with the two other nodes, wherein portions of the first and second connection  
7   paths overlap; and  
8           highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first  
9   connection path.

1           22.    The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting  
2   includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

1           23.    The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting  
2   includes changing the color of the first connection path.

1           24.    The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user  
2   selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1           25.    The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user  
2   selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first  
3   connection path from a list of network connections.

1           26.    A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology  
2   display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:  
3           displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having  
4   two or more connections to two or more other nodes in the network;

5 displaying two or more connection paths, each representing one of the  
6 connections with the other nodes, wherein portions of a first displayed connection path  
7 overlaps with a portion of a second displayed connection path; and  
8 highlighting the displayed connection paths for all connections to the  
9 displayed node in response to a user indication.

1 27. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting  
2 includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

1 28. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting  
2 includes changing the color of the highlighted connection paths.

1 29. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user  
2 indication is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

1 30. The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user  
2 indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

1 31. A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology  
2 display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:  
3 displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having  
4 two connections to two other nodes in the network; and  
5 displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two  
6 connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and  
7 second orthogonal segments and a distinguishing segment joining the first and second  
8 segments in a continuous manner, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of  
9 the second connection path.

1 32. The computer-implemented method of claim 31, wherein the  
2 distinguishing segment includes two or more polygonal portions.